

BRIAN PADDOCK: Thank you. My name is Brian Paddock. I'm a practicing attorney, licensed in Tennessee. I have taught environmental law at Tennessee Tech. And soon after Vice President Al Gore's film of his slide show called "*An Inconvenient Truth*," I was trained to make presentations on climate change due to global warming. I have taught climate change in college classes and many community and civic groups. Each time I revise my slides and presentation, I update my own knowledge of the degree of climate disruption of our planet, our species, and our biosphere is experiencing. The news is very bad. Unfortunately, when Mr. Gore returned from Kiero, he was going to send a proposal to the United States Senate, and they passed a resolution preempting him by ninety-nine votes, saying: "We don't want to hear about climate change. We don't want to hear what is going to happen." That is when the climate disinformation lobby went into high gear, confusing and delaying our nation's response to this terrible threat by the use of fossil fuels and release of carbon to the atmosphere. Now, 129 nations have agreed to work on a new framework, which is really based on nation by nation self-determined goals and their implementation. In the U.S. the APA is acting on the clean power plan, but the federal courts have suspended its implementation. And we still use far too much coal to produce electricity. But the inexorable forces of climate disruption are immune to human politics. 2015 was the hottest year on record, according to NASA, NOAA, and the British Met Office. In Paris, the goal was to keep climate warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and certainly below 2 degrees C. to avoid a catastrophic tipping into an unbearably disrupted climate. Most of the warming occurred in the past thirty-five years, with fifteen of the sixteen warmest years on record occurring since 2001. Last year was the first time the global average temperatures were 1 degree Celsius or more above the 1880-1899 average. In other words, we are very close. Last month was the hottest April on record globally and the seventh month in a row to have broken global temperature records. The latest figures smashed the previous record for April by the largest margin ever recorded. That makes three months in a row that we have done this, month after month. We must fully consider what science is telling us. And we have become a world of melting ice and rising sea levels. And I won't go into more details, but we must make no profit. The government -- No profit the government could make by selling the remaining coal on federal lands will match the cost we in the U.S. and the world will suffer from climate change. The PEIS must recognize that ending the Federal Coal Leasing Program is mandated as a small part of a step toward our survival and one of a multitude of actions we must take to avoid the worst. Thank you.